



# For Immediate Release

City of Renton - 1055 South Grady Way  
Renton, WA 98057

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## **Renton Sister City Delegation to Visit Japan in April 2007**

### **Community leaders and Renton residents are invited to participate**

RENTON--Plans are underway for the next City of Renton sister city delegation visit to Nishiwaki, Japan, in mid-April 2007. The one-week trip is open to community leaders and residents interested in representing Renton to its sister city. Past delegations have included members from the Renton School District, City of Renton, Mayor and Council members, service clubs, and Renton citizens. Delegates will tour attractions and sightsee around Nishiwaki and surrounding cities but are responsible for their own expenses. Many prefer home-stay accommodations in Nishiwaki making the travel arrangements more affordable and the cultural experience more rewarding. Renton sent delegations to Nishiwaki in 1999 and 2002, and Nishiwaki brought delegations to Renton in 2001 and 2004.

Renton's Sister City relationship with Nishiwaki began in 1969 when a Sister City alliance with Nishiwaki, Japan, was forged by the Renton Lion's Club with support of other civic organizations to promote mutual understanding and good will between the United States and Japan and to encourage the exchange of ideas and culture between the two cities. In an effort to enhance a Sister City relationship with Nishiwaki, the Renton City Council passed a resolution in 1994 establishing an official City of Renton Nishiwaki Sister City Committee. The Sister City relationship pairs two cities with strikingly similar characteristics. Like Renton, Nishiwaki, Japan, is located in a valley between two hills with a river running through the center of town. The climates are very similar, and each city has three high schools. Nishiwaki is located near the city of Kobe, which is one of Seattle's sister cities. The Washington-Hyogo, Japan, Sister State Association strengthens the relationship between Renton and Nishiwaki.

The next planning meeting for the delegation will be held on Tuesday, November 28, at 5:30 p.m., Renton City Hall, 7th Floor Council Conference Room. Renton City Hall is located at 1055 South Grady Way. For questions, more information, or to become part of the delegation, please call Sonja Mejlaender in Community Services at 425.430.6514. Those interested in becoming a delegate must confirm participation by **January 15, 2007**.

